**Final Word Protocol**: From ***The Power of Protocols: An Educator’s Guide to Better Practice*** Joseph McDonald, Nancy Mohr, Alan Dichter, Elizabeth C. McDonald

**Final Word** is designed to expand the interpretation of text by encouraging the emergence of a variety of viewpoints and voices. By including everyone in offering an interpretation, **Final Word** provides opportunity for diverse perspectives and is designed to get these perspectives “into the air”.

Larger group is divided into groups of 3. The facilitator asks all participants to select a short passage from the reading that has particular meaning for them; a meaningful passage they would like to call attention to.

Each small group of three sits in a tight circle. The facilitator assigns an order of presentation for participants in each circle. For example, “The person in your group with ??? will be number one, the person on his right is number two, etc.” In this case the facilitator will be the (strict) time keeper.

**Presentation*--***Presenter #1 presents the passage he or she has identified, reading aloud and having people follow along on their copies. The presenter speaks for 2 or 3 uninterrupted minutes about it (with the time clear in advance).

**Reflecting Back*--***Each listener in turn has 1-uninterrupted minute to “reflect back” on what the presenter has said. (***Reflecting Back*** means exploring the presenter’s interpretation of the passage, not adding one’s own interpretation.) A listener might begin, “From what you said, I can see that you are concerned about…..” Each listener reflects back.

**Final Word*—***The round ends with a 1-minute uninterrupted time for the presenter to react to what has just been said by the two listeners.

**Round Repeats*—***Rounds two and three follow until each member has presented and had their “final word”.

**Written Reflection**—Following the rounds, the facilitator asks everyone to write for 5 minutes about what they have learned from the rounds about the text as a whole. This will be followed by a quick “go round” asking each member to share one observation or insight.